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Reaction Paper: AMBISYON NATIN 2040

In 2015, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) launched a nationwide study on Filipino people's aspirations, values, and principles with the purpose of creating a long-term aspiration for the Philippines. It was founded on a goal that Filipino people sincerely shared. This study eventually lead to the creation of AMBISYON NATIN 2040.

Ambisyon Natin 2040 is a vision of the future that includes personal and national objectives. It serves as a destination to go, providing a response to the question, "Where do we want to be?" Ambisyon Natin 2040 is the vision that directs the future and serves as the focal point of the nation's plans. Furthermore, Ambisyon Natin 2040 offers opportunities for equality and growth, which might also give those who are oppressed some hope. However, upon reading Ambisyon 2040, I came to realize that some visions are idealistic for some reasons.

In the article that I have read, there are three envisioned lifestyle that have stated and can be summed up as follows: strongly rooted (matatag), comfortable (maginhawa) and secure (panatag). In the sections that follow,I will express my thoughts on whether or not each of these three goals can be achieved.

First envisioned lifestyle; Filipinos are strongly rooted (Matatag). According to the article, “Families in the Philippines typically live together. There is a balance between job and life so that even family members who work can spend time with them. People reside in a society with a high level of trust and a strong sense of community. And thus, Filipinos have the chance to serve their communities, assist those in need, and support various causes through volunteer work.” The assertion is reasonable. Considering that we Filipinos are known for having strong and intimate family ties, this ambition is achievable. We hold our family in the highest regard and give them priority over everything else. Additionally, being “matatag” refers not just to our deep links to our families yet also to our strong bonds with other Filipinos. This is evident in our community, as everyone is eager to assist a fellow member who is in desperate need particularly those victims of calamities.

Second envisioned lifestyle; Filipinos are comfortable (Maginhawa). As stated “Being comfortable means that no one is poor or hungry. Filipino families live in comfortable homes with the desired amenities and secure tenure. Families and friends are within reach because transport is convenient and affordable, and they can take a vacation together within the country or abroad. Children receive quality education, so that they realize their full potential. Decent jobs and opportunities for

entrepreneurship are available.” This ambition for me is too idealistic. It is not achievable. Why? With the current state of the Philippines, we are far from being a middle-class country which can provide such a kind of life for most Filipinos. Thus, the “No one is poor or hungry” statement is unlikely to happen as for our country is infested of corrupt leaders. How can we expect a comfortable life after 25 years if most of our current leaders in the government are greedy for power and that the basic services are not properly provided for the populace? The government are being blinded about the main problems in our society. Like for example, the system of education in our country is broke. Filipino children continue missing education opportunities. In fact, the number of children out of school has reached 2.8 million and it is because of low investment over the past decade, outdated teaching methods and limited attention to the development of children's social and emotional skills. Obviously, the government still has no solution for these. However, the people are also to blame for the country's ongoing suffering as appointing a corrupt leader is like a tradition for most of them.

Third envisioned lifestyle; Filipinos are secure (Panatag). As stated in the article “Filipinos feel secure over their entire lifetime. They expect to live long and enjoy a comfortable life upon retirement. There are resources to cover unexpected expenses, and there are savings. They feel safe in all places in the country. Filipinos trust their government because it is free of corruption and provides service to all its citizens equally.” I will argue in this statement. This vision is unattainable by 2040 for some reason. First of all, Philippines was one of the countries with the highest incarceration rate per 100,000 people and it is increasing rapidly every year and if our political system does not reform, it will undoubtedly get worse over the next few years. Additionally, given the conflict between China and the Philippines over the Scarborough Shoal, we cannot claim that national security is protecting us either. Regarding matters of national security, citizens of our nation are growing increasingly uneasy. Another major factor contributing to the Philippines' population's declining sense of security over their taxes is the country's corrupt leaders. Those are some of the reasons why Filipino citizen really can’t secure the life of Filipinos given by the current situation of our country.

Although Ambisyon 2040 is a national project where in the citizens will benefit the most, I find it too idealistic. In my opinion, only one of the three visions can be attain which is the vision for strong rooted family since it is already ingrained in Filipino culture and is difficult to eradicate. However, As a Filipino citizen, though some visions are impossible, it is still a great plan for a developing country like the Philippines and I’m still looking forward to what Ambisyon natin 2040 could may bring to us by next 25 years.